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Authors: Brillhart, Dianne B., and McKown, Richard D.

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First Record of *Ixodes brunneus* in Kansas

Dianne B. Brillhart¹ and Richard D. McKown,² ¹Division of Biology, Ackert Hall; ²Department of Laboratory Medicine, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas 66506, USA

ABSTRACT: A single specimen, a partially engorged female, of *Ixodes brunneus* was recovered from a common grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) in Butler County, near El Dorado, Kansas (USA). The discovery of this tick in Kansas represents a new state record.

Key words: *Ixodes brunneus*, common grackle, *Quiscalus quiscula*, tick.

Ixodes brunneus is a tick specific to birds in North America. Old World bird ticks previously referred to as *I. brunneus* are now considered to be *I. frontalis* (Keirans, 1985). Additionally, *I. kellogi* is now considered as a synonym of *I. brunneus* (Bequaert, 1945; Cooley and Kohls, 1945; Keirans and Clifford, 1978). *Ixodes brunneus* has been reared in the laboratory and all stages are now described (Anastos and Smith, 1957). The affinity of *I. brunneus* for migratory birds gives it an opportunity for wide dissemination. *Ixodes brunneus* is recorded from 21 states, mostly in the eastern and midwestern United States (Keirans and Clifford, 1978).

Although it is unusual to find more than a few specimens on a single host, *I. brunneus* is reported to have adverse effects on birds (Bishopp and Trembley, 1945). Thomas (1941), Worth (1942) and Gregson (1973) observed that when *I. brunneus* is engorged on a bird's eyelid it may impair eyesight, cause blindness or induce paralysis. Bishopp and Trembley (1945) found birds dead or unable to fly with engorged females of this species attached to the head or neck.

On 1 April 1973 a single tick was found on a common grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) collected in Butler County, near El Dorado, Kansas (38°02'N, 96°41'W). It was not until June 1990 that the tick was submitted to the parasitology laboratory at Kansas State University (Manhattan, Kan-

sas 66506, USA) for identification. The tick was subsequently sent to J. E. Keirans (Institute of Arthropodology and Parasitology, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, Georgia 30460, USA; accession RLM number 119976) who determined it to be a partially engorged female *Ixodes brunneus*. This is the first record of *I. brunneus* in Kansas. Additional studies, currently underway, may help determine the distribution of this tick in Kansas.

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